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ORIGINAL GOVERNOR'S MANSION SECRET GARDEN TOUR GROWS ON YOU

Just like the wonderful gardens that are at its heart, the Original Governor's Mansion Secret Garden Tour grows bigger and better every year.

In addition to self-guided tours of six of Helena's most beautiful and interesting gardens, this year's tour will feature a host of other activities and food at the Original Governor's Mansion at Sixth and Ewing Streets, which serves as the headquarters for the event.

The annual event will be Sunday, June 22, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Ewing Street will be blocked off for the day of the tour so that a Vendor's Market can be set up to add to the festivities of the day.

The Montana Historical Society, which manages the Original Governor's Mansion, will have historic quilts on display throughout the mansion, in honor of its forthcoming "Traditions in Color and Comfort: Montana's Quilting Heritage" exhibit at Montana's Museum just east of the Capitol.

Keeping with the quilts theme, Creative Stitches quilt store will hold a quilt show on the grounds of the mansion that will include demonstrations and other information on the popular craft.

For those who have not participated in the tour in the past, maps are provided at the mansion to the secret gardens on the day of the event. Master gardeners and volunteers are at each of the gardens to answer questions and help you enjoy and learn more about how to do it yourself.

Tour tickets are \$12 purchased in advance, and \$15 the day of the tour at the mansion. Lunch tickets are \$15 and must be purchased in advance. Chili O'Brien is catering the lunch, which will be served from noon to 2 p.m. on the grounds of the mansion.

Tickets are available at the following locations: Montana Historical Society Museum Store, Leslie's Hallmark both locations, Benny's Bistro, and Mountain West Bank Cedar Street and Colonial Drive branches.

The Original Governor's Mansion Board has selected Helena artist Sally Rogers Angove's "Calla Lily" as a commemorative print that will be on sale the day of the tour. This is the second year a commemorative print has been selected, and a limited number of last year's print, "Red Red Rose" by Carol Novotne, are still available.

OGM Board members are holding a raffle during the tour with items on display in the mansion. The grand prize is a full-size quilt, but many other prizes will be offered. Tickets are can be purchased in advance from any board member, at the Historical Society, at Creative Stitches, or at the mansion the day of the event.